

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----021857 051536Z /50

O R 051455Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8559  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3735

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: UN, MARR, PLO, LE, UNRWA  
SUBJ: REMARKS OF UNIFIL POLITICAL ADVISOR JEAN CLAUDE AIME  
ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. AT LUNCH WITH DCM ON JULY 5, UNIFIL POLITICAL ADVISOR  
JEAN CLAUDE AIME SAID THE FOLLOWING.
2. HE HAD MET MORNING OF JULY 5 WITH A LEADING PLO OFFICIAL  
WHO HAD SAID PALESTINIANS FIRMLY INTEND TO STAY OUT OF CURRENT  
FIGHTING BETWEEN SYRIANS AND CHRISTIANS IN BEIRUT. AIME  
REMARKED UNIFIL HAD NEVERTHELESS DETECTED MOVEMENT OF A  
SIZEABLE PALESTINIAN FORCE NORTH FROM SOUTH LEBANON WITHIN  
LAST TWO DAYS. AIME COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED PALESTINIANS  
TRULY INTEND TO STAY OUT OF BEIRUT FIGHTING AND THAT THIS  
MOVE WAS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.
3. THE PLO OFFICIAL HAD ALSO SPENT ABOUT ONE HALF THE MEET-  
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ING INSISTING THAT THE PLO WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO UNRWA'S  
MOVING FROM BEIRUT, AIME SAID. AIME COMMENTED THAT SECRETARY  
GENERAL WALDHEIM HAD APPROVED THE MOVE ONLY BECAUSE HE HAD  
ASSUMED THAT UNRWA HAD MADE THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS  
BEFOREHAND. HOWEVER, THIS WAS EVIDENTLY NOT THE CASE.

4. AIME ALSO REMARKED THAT HE ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE

NO MORE THAN 250 ARMED PALESTINIANS SOUTH OF THE LITANI AND OUTSIDE OF THE TYRE POCKET. HE CLAIMED THAT AS OF MAY 30 THERE WERE 3500 ARMED PALESTINIANS IN THE TYRE POCKET BUT THE UN HAD NO PRECISE ESTIMATE NOW, SINCE THE FRENCH COULD NO LONGER PROVIDE RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. THE LARGEST NON-PALESTINIAN LEFTIST MILITIA GROUP IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS THE MURABITUN, AIME SAID. DESPITE SOME DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PALESTINIANS AND THE MURABITUN, THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT THE LATTER WERE MERELY CREATURES OF THE FORMER.

6. ON JULY 3 AIME HAD MET IN ISRAEL WITH IDF GENERAL BEN GAL AND ASKED HIM TO EXERCISE INFLUENCE TO GET THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL. BEN GAL HAD REPLIED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD ONLY LIMITED INFLUENCE OVER THEN AND THAT THE PARTIES IN BEIRUT EXERCISED PRIMARY CONTROL. AIME COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS ASSERTION BY BEN GAL.

7. FINALLY AIME DID NOT BELIEVE THE CURRENT FIGHTING IN BEIRUT WOULD LEAD TO RENEWED HOSTILITIES IN SOUTH LEBANON. RATHER, HE THOUGHT THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN THE SOUTH WERE CONTENT TO SIT THE CURRENT FIGHTING OUT. PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DCM, MILITARY PLANS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** REMARKS OF UNIFIL POLITICAL ADVISOR JEAN CLAUDE AIME ON SOUTH LEBANON  
**TAGS:** MARR, LE, UN, PLO, UNRWA, (AIME, JEAN CLAUDE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014